(c) whether necessary study about economic viability of the project has been carried out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated savings in expenditure on purchase of power every year after production of power in own plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways are considering to install power generation plant(s) jointly with National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) for its own use.

(b) to (e) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with NTPC on 18.2.2002 for exploring the possibilities of setting up of Joint Venture Power Project(s). As per MoU, Project Committee of Railways and NTPC has been formed for preparation of techno-economic feasibility study report. The Committee is yet to submit its report and on the basis of the report, appropriate action will be taken.

Train accidents

†414. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major train accidents till 31st December during 2002 along with the dates of accidents, the places of their occurrence, number of people killed and injured in the same;

(b) the reasons for each accident and whether various commissions appointed after accidents have submitted their reports; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation keeping in view the recommendations made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The details of major accidents (involving 10 casualties or more), from April, 2002 to December, 2002, are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl.No.	DATE	PARTICULARS	KILLED	INJURED
1.	12.5.2002	Derailment of 2402 Express between Faizabad-Zafarabad section of Northern Railway's Lucknow Division.	11	47
2.	4.6.2002	Dashing of 5301 Kanpur-Kasganj Express against a bus at manned level crossing Gate No. 236-B on Fatehgarh-Kasganj section of North Eastern Railway's Izzatnagar Division	49	29
3.	9.7.2002	Derailment of 2301 Rajdhani Express between Rafiganj-Deo Road stations of Eastern Railway's Mughalsarai Division.	108	164
4.	21.12.2002	Derailment of 7685 Up Kacheguda-Bangalore Express between Pendekallu-Pagidirai stations of South Central Railway's Guntakal Division.	19	72

(b) The three derailments mentioned above were due to "sabotage". One level crossing accident occurred due to "failure of Railway Staff". These have been investigated by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. No Judicial Commission has been appointed to look into the above accidents.

(c) The action on the recommendations of the Commissioner of Railway Safety has been initiated.

Management of Railways to reduce accidents

415. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway accidents have become a ghastly routine and the number of Railway accidents have increased during the last one year; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to concentrate on better quality management of Railways rather than quantitative achievement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The number of accidents has come down from 473 in 2000-01 to 414 in 2001-02 and has further declined to 304* in 2002-03 (April 2002 to January 2003).

(b) Does not arise.

*Provisional Figures.